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Thayer's Tell-A-Scope

MME. SOPHIE DE ROMER, whose splendid portraits will be on exhibition today through Sunday at the Franz Bader bookshop-gallery, has the unique distinction of being released from Soviet imprisonment by Molotov. Molotov (whose political pseudonym means, appropriately, "hammer,") didn't willingly free Mme. de Romer and her husband. He was forced to kindness by their cousin, Polish Ambassador to Moscow Tadeuz de Romer, who, on presenting his diplomatic credentials, demanded their release.

An artist, who studied in Paris and Munich and achieved success in her native Poland, Mme. de Romer and her husband were deported from their country place in Lithuania in 1941. They spent three weeks traveling across Russia in a cattle car. She survived, undoubtedly because, as an artist, she was spared assignment to a logging camp, and instead, was set to work in a toy factory.

After Molotov arranged their release from the far northern camp, they went to Kuibyshev, the Volga city which served as Soviet wartime capital. There M. de Romer died and his wife managed to exit by Iran, reach Cairo where she painted Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Patterson and other well-known Americans. She was separated from her five children during seven years, and today two are in Canada, one in Australia, while the fifth is still behind the Iron Curtain. Her dream was to come to the United States, and since her arrival Mme. de Romer has been busy drawing and painting Joseph Grew, Howard Mitchell, Noel and Elena Macy, Austria's Archduke Charles and his family and many others. Here is a touching story of courage and survival made possible by her artistic talent.

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